

**COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 18, 2017**

Attending: P. Burns, Presiding; Francis Burgweger; Carol Burns; James Dougherty; Steven Katz; Ellen Wolfson.
Staff: Laurette Helmrich.

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the September 20, 2017 meeting were distributed. The following corrections were noted:
Page 2, Paragraph 5 should read: Carol reported that she had a scheduling conflict and was unable to attend the last Department of Human Services meeting.
Page 2, Paragraph 6 references to SWACA should read SWCAA.
With those changes, a Motion was made to approve the Minutes. Seconded and Carried.

Chairman's Report: The Operational Plan was previously distributed to Commission members.
MOTION: To adopt the Operational Plan as presented. Seconded. All in favor.

It was previously mentioned that when formed the official name was "Committee On Aging". A process is before the Town to officially change the name to "Commission On Aging".

MOTION: That we support the proposed official name change to Commission On Aging. Seconded. All in favor.

Chapter 127B of the State Statutes calls for each Town to have an Agent on Aging. At present a Department of Social Services employee holds this title. It was discussed whether this title should more appropriately be given to Lori as Director of the Commission On Aging. The question will be referred to the Selectman's office.

A resident has asked the Commission to intervene with Optimum to require them to provide a classical music station as part of its basic subscriber's package. Discussion was had on the issue of whether this was within the Commission's role to advocate for the senior population as a whole.

MOTION: That the Commission should not act on the request as it would be outside the scope of the Commission's mission. Seconded. All in favor.

Strategic Planning: The Committee has had two meetings. The revised plan will be sent to all Commission members prior to the November meeting and will be voted on at the November meeting.

Age Friendly Greenwich: The survey team has met. They have taken the AARP survey and are trying to trim it to get the most relevant and manageable data. They believe that more people are likely to respond to a shorter survey with fewer answer choices. A Survey Monkey account has been established to provide for online survey responses. There will be a fee for the service and we are trying to determine what that fee will be. An AARP representative will speak at an event on November 9.

Health Expo: Approximately 400 people attended the Health Expo. Ellen Wolfson was thanked for her presentation on Advanced Directives.

Sponsors: The goal for sponsorship this year was \$30,000.00. To date \$33,000.00 has been collected.

Facility: The renovation of the ground floor bathrooms will begin any day.

Senior Center
Administrator's

Report: L. Helmrich reported that the Medicare Part D open enrollment period runs to December 7 and that counseling is ongoing. Many sessions have been scheduled and the tech center at the Greenwich Library is being used as well as the Senior Center. A SWCCA Representative will be coming to give training on new state Medicare D reporting requirements.
A Senior Center art show will be held on 11/6 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Osborn Home Care office at 125 Mason Street.
Furniture for the renovated lower level will be purchased.
An evening tai chi program has been started.
Proposals for the food service have been submitted. It appears that Mossison will continue as the provider.
The budget is being worked on. Salaries will increase at 2.5% with the rest of the budget increasing at about 1.25%.

Human

Services: C. Burns reported that they met last night. They believe they can work within the required budget limits without cutting services.

Nathaniel
Witherell:

E. Wolfson reported that the Witherell at Home program has to go out to bid again as the original process called for a regular town contract but a health care contract is needed.
A new phone system has been installed that will provide phone service to residents without individual charges. .
Six deficiencies were noted in a State inspection. All have been resolved.
Finances are in good shape.

Senior Tax
Relief:

K. Burgweger reported that the committee is working on a justification of why senior tax relief is needed

NEXT

MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Commission will be held on November 8, 2017 at 8:30 a.m..

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James B. Dougherty
Secretary